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X-REF CORONA

9 December 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Carter

Tuesday afternoon, 10 December at 3:30, I will meet with Dr. McMillan. I understand he has prepared a revision to his October 28th directive to General Greer which he withdrew after his discussion with me a week ago.

I would like yours and Dr. Wheelon's advice as to the position I should take with McMillan. Also the position I should take in a discussion I expect to have with Secretary McNamara enroute from Saigon to Washington.

With respect to CIA's activities, I think it is more important for us to exercise the forward-looking imaginative approach to the future than to concern ourselves too much with operations. Quite naturally we do not wish to lose control of operations but the Executive Board which was set up and met last week seems to be a good step in the right direction in this regard.

What worries me is the fact that we are not moving aggressively enough on a new system that will provide a resolution approaching U-2 resolution in a search system. I know that we have the study of the CORONA system under way but I believe we should be developing some concrete ideas on the next forward step. I think this is CIA's most important role in satellite photography.

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JOHN A. McCONE  
Director

cc: Dr. Wheelon

JAM/mfb

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✓ lcc - Dr. Wheelon

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NRO review(s) completed.

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